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25 FEB 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF OF STAFF, USAF

SUBJECT: Status of USAF Astronautics Program (U)

1. Per your request, this memorandum and inclosures are submitted as a brief status summary of our Astronautics Program.
2. The following sub-paragraphs represent the main historical highlights of the past four months:
 - a. 29 October: Secretary McElroy was briefed on the ARS program and generally approved it;
 - b. 5 November: General Mills briefed the R&D Policy Council on reconnaissance satellite programs and possible cold war and scientific programs which could be considered for follow-up of Project VANGUARD. As a result, the Air Force was asked to submit more detailed descriptions, cost estimates, and probable launch dates;
 - c. 12 November: Mr. Horner signed a memorandum to OSD, describing various space vehicle possibilities using THOR and NAVARO boosters. Specifically, it was requested that the Air Force be given a "go-ahead" to launch a THOR-boosted satellite in March 1958. No reply has ever been received to this memorandum.
 - d. 27 January: General Boushey presented a complete Astronautics Program to Mr. Holaday (per request in memorandum from him). This material was presented in writing in a 25 January memorandum, signed by Mr. Horner. See inclosure #1 for details;
 - e. 1 February: Secretary Douglas sent a memorandum to OSD requesting approval of our 12 November proposals and also clear-cut designation of Air Force as executive agent for the ARS;
 - f. 14 February: Secretary Douglas sent a memorandum to OSD requesting approval for the Air Force to initiate five specific Astronautics projects. See inclosure #2 for details;
 - g. 21 February: Mr. Horner also sent a memorandum to OSD describing some aspects of the ARS program and asking again that the USAF be clearly designated as its executive agent.

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Memo for C/S, USAF, subj: Status of USAF Astronautics Program - cont'd

3. The main requests to OSD now outstanding pertain to my 27 January briefing of Mr. Holaday and the 14 February memorandum to OSD by Mr. Douglas. The attached data sheets indicate what work we are now doing and what is pending OSD approval.

2 Incls

1. Data Sheets
2. Cy Nov 14 Memo to OSD

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